

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An in-vivo information acquisition apparatus to be inserted into a body to examine a specimen and acquire in-vivo information, the in-vivo information acquisition apparatus comprising:

a specimen-collecting section for collecting a specimen at an examination site in a body cavity;

a specimen-evaluating section for evaluating the specimen collected by the specimen-collecting section and outputting an evaluation result;

a labeling section having identification information unique to the in-vivo information acquisition apparatus;

a communication section for receiving a signal transmitted from outside and for transmitting to the outside the evaluation result output by the specimen-evaluating section;

a power supply section for supplying electrical power; and

an indwelling section for affixing to a tissue surface in the body cavity.

2. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the labeling section is a labeling tag for transmitting the identification information via wireless communication.

3. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the labeling tag is an RF-ID.

4. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the in-vivo information acquisition apparatus includes a power supply control section that controls the supply of power of the power supply section based on the signal when the communication section receives the signal transmitted from the outside.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the in-vivo information acquisition apparatus includes an adhesive container for storing a biocompatible adhesive; and an adhesive release section for releasing the biocompatible adhesive.

7. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the power supply section is an externally chargeable power storage section that is supplied with electrical power by transmitting energy from outside the body wirelessly.

8. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the power storage section is an electrical double-layer capacitor.

9. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the in-vivo information acquisition apparatus

includes a cell enclosure having the specimen-evaluating section;
a shutter for introducing the specimen to the interior of the casing; and
an ion-conducting actuator for controlling the opening and closing of the shutter.

10. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specimen-evaluating section includes a photodetector for measuring an optical change of the specimen due to a reaction between the specimen and another substance.

11. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the specimen-evaluating section includes an illuminating element for emitting illuminating light onto the specimen.

12. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the illuminating element is a wavelength tunable light source.

13. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the specimen-evaluating section functions as a blood sensor for detecting the presence of blood.

14. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the specimen-evaluating section functions as a protein sensor for detecting a particular protein.

15. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the specimen-evaluating section functions as an enzyme sensor for detecting a particular enzyme.

16. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the specimen-evaluating section functions as a gene sensor for detecting a particular gene.

17. (Original) The in-vivo information acquisition apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the in-vivo information acquisition apparatus includes an imaging section for acquiring an image of the body cavity.

18. – 33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method of acquiring in-vivo information comprising the steps of:

introducing into a body cavity and temporarily indwelling in an examination site a body cavity a plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses for acquiring in-vivo information in the body cavity, each of the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses having unique identification information;

acquiring in-vivo information using each of the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses; and

transmitting outside the body the in-vivo information acquired, together with the identification information, using the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of acquiring in-vivo information according to claim 34, wherein the step of introducing the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses into the body cavity comprises the steps of:

introducing a capsule medical apparatus which stores the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses into the body cavity; and

releasing the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses in the body cavity from the capsule medical apparatus.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of acquiring in-vivo information according to claim 34, wherein the step of acquiring in-vivo information using each of the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses comprises the steps of:

emitting a signal from the outside of the body;

receiving the signal using the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses; and

in response to the signal received, acquiring in-vivo information using the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses substantially at the same time.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of acquiring in-vivo information according to claim 34, wherein the step of transmitting outside the body the in-vivo information acquired, together with the identification information, using the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses comprises the steps of:

emitting the signal from the outside of the body;

receiving the signal using the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses; and in response to the signal received, transmitting outside the body the in-vivo information acquired, together with the identification information, using the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses substantially at the same time.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of acquiring in-vivo information according to claim 35, wherein the step of releasing the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses in the body cavity from the capsule medical apparatus comprises the steps of:

detecting a position of the capsule medical apparatus inside the body; and

in response to the position detected, releasing the in-vivo information apparatus.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of acquiring in-vivo information according to claim 34, wherein the step of introducing the plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses into the body cavity is a step of substantially releasing the ~~in-vivo~~ plurality of in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses into the body cavity at different times.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of acquiring in-vivo information according to claim 34, further comprising the step of indwelling the in-vivo information acquisition apparatuses on a tissue surface in the body cavity at a release position.